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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Report of the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee

1. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee considered the question of special economic and humanitarian assistance (agenda item 17) at its 1st to 5th, 8th, 10th, 12th and 13th meetings, on 8 to 11 and 16 to 19 July 1991.

2. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Yemen (A/46/217-E/1991/94).

3. At the 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the item in conjunction with items 12, 15, 16 (c) and 18.

4. At the 1st meeting, on 8 July, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the representative of the Joint Inspection Unit.

5. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme and the representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund.

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the representative of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

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7. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an oral report by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan concerning the implementation of the emergency and relief operations in that country, including Operation Lifeline Sudan. An oral report was also made by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia.

8. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Somalia and the Bahamas and the observers for the Sudan and Ethiopia. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization also made a statement.

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 July, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Peru, Chile, Pakistan and Algeria and the observers for Australia and Djibouti.

10. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization made statements. The observer for the International Organization for Migration made a statement. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, category II.

11. At the 4th meeting, on 11 July, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, China, Brazil, Austria, the United States of America, Japan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Morocco and the observers for Switzerland, Cuba and Egypt.

12. At the 5th meeting, on 11 July, statements were made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and the observers for Yemen and Senegal.

13. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Committee summarized the general discussion on items 12, 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18.

14. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Chile proposed that the Chairman's summary be annexed to the report of the Council to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

15. Statements in support of that proposal were made by the representatives of Brazil, Somalia and the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community) and the observer for Ghana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77).

16. The Committee then decided to recommend to the Council that the text of the Chairman's summary of the general discussion on items 12, 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18 be annexed to the report of the Council submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (for the text of the decision, see E/1991/139, para. 22, draft decision I).

Critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa

17. At the 8th meeting, on 16 July, the representative of Somalia, on behalf of Canada, China, Egypt, 1/ Ethiopia, 1/ Japan, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan 1/ and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.3/L.1) entitled "Critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa", which read as follows:

"Critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/154, 45/157, 45/160 and 45/161 of 18 December 1990,

"Deeply concerned about the critical condition of millions of people threatened by famine and civil strife and the massive number of refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa,

"Bearing in mind the appeals made by the Secretary-General at the twenty-seventh regular session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Abuja from 3 to 5 June 1991, and at the opening of the second regular session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council, on 3 July, in which he invited the international community to give prompt attention to the impending catastrophic situation that obtained in the Horn of Africa and called for the mobilization of additional resources to help the countries concerned to cope with the critical humanitarian situation,

"Being particularly aware that there is a link between emergency aid, rehabilitation and development and that the existence of refugees and displaced persons poses a heavy burden on the social and economic infrastructures of the countries concerned,

"Taking into account the serious implications of the existing situation for the development prospects of the countries concerned and the imperative need for a coordinated approach by the United Nations system as a whole,

"1. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his initiative in sending an inter-agency mission to the Horn of Africa in order to assess the emergency humanitarian assistance for the affected countries and for his untiring efforts to alert the international community to the critical situation existing in the region and the need to mobilize additional resources;

"2. Appeals to the international community and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to respond generously and promptly to the Secretary-General's appeals to meet the urgent needs already identified in the report of the inter-agency mission;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

18. At the 13th meeting, on 19 July, the representative of Somalia introduced a revised draft resolution (E/1991/C.3/L.1/Rev.1). Subsequently, Austria, Rwanda and Senegal 1/ joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (see para. 26 below, draft resolution I).

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon

20. At the 10th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Belgium, 1/ Egypt, 1/ France, Greece, 1/ Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, 1/ Lebanon, 1/ the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 1/ Morocco, Qatar, 1/ the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.3/L.4) entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon". Subsequently, Spain joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

21. At the 13th meeting, on 19 July, the Secretary of the Committee read out the following revisions to the draft resolution, which had been agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the word "mobilize" was replaced by the word "provide";

(b) In operative paragraph 2, the word "second" before the words "regular session" was deleted.

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see para. 26 below, draft resolution II).

Assistance to the Republic of Yemen

23. At the 10th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of Algeria, on behalf also of the Sudan, 1/ Viet Nam 1/ and Yemen, 1/ introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.3/L.5) entitled "Assistance to the Republic of Yemen". Subsequently, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, 1/ Morocco, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

24. At the 13th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 26 below, draft resolution III).

Emergency and relief operations

25. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, the Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided to recommend to the Council that it take note of (a) the oral report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for

Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan, including Operation Lifeline Sudan, and (b) the oral report of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia (see para. 27 below, draft decision).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION) COMMITTEE

26. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/154, 45/157, 45/160 and 45/161 of 18 December 1990,

Deeply concerned about the critical condition of millions of people threatened by famine, ill-health and civil strife, and equally concerned about the massive number of refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa,

Bearing in mind the appeals made by the Secretary-General at the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Abuja from 3 to 5 June 1991, and at the opening of the second regular session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council, on 3 July, in which he invited the international community to give prompt attention to the impending catastrophic situation that threatens in the Horn of Africa and called for the mobilization of additional resources to help the countries concerned to cope with the critical humanitarian situation,

Being particularly aware that there is a link between emergency aid, rehabilitation and development and that the existence of refugees and displaced persons poses a heavy burden on the social and economic infrastructures of the countries concerned,

Taking into account the serious implications of the existing situation for the development prospects of the countries concerned and the imperative need for a coordinated approach by the United Nations system as a whole,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for his initiative in sending an inter-agency mission to the Horn of Africa in order to assess the emergency humanitarian assistance for the affected countries and for his untiring efforts to alert the international community to the critical situation existing in the region and the need to mobilize additional resources;

2. Appeals to the international community and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to respond generously and promptly to the Secretary-General's appeals to meet the urgent needs already identified in the report of the inter-agency mission;

3. Appeals to all the parties in the Horn of Africa to contribute constructively to the current processes of national reconciliation and regional cooperation and to the negotiating efforts in this direction;

4. Calls upon Governments and other parties concerned in the affected countries, given the particular circumstances prevailing in those countries, to allow full access to, and protection of the international relief and development organizations and agencies, as well as the non-governmental organizations concerned, and also to facilitate their efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/225 of 21 December 1990 and the previous resolutions of the General Assembly concerning international assistance for the reconstruction of Lebanon, in which the Assembly called upon the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their programmes of assistance and to expand them in response to the pressing needs of Lebanon,

Aware of the deteriorating socio-economic conditions of the people of Lebanon and the magnitude of their unmet needs,

Noting with deep concern the unprecedented inflation in Lebanon in recent years and the catastrophic decline in the value of the Lebanese pound,

1. Calls on all Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their efforts to provide all possible assistance for the Government of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development efforts, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its regular session of 1992 a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Assistance to the Republic of Yemen

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Yemen, 2/

Noting that, in his report, the Secretary-General emphasized that the continuous assistance and support of the international community to the Government of the Republic of Yemen remain essential and imperative and that the General Assembly had called upon States and governmental and international non-governmental organizations to extend their assistance in support of the national efforts to improve the economic and social infrastructure of Yemen,

Taking into consideration the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and international organizations and specialized agencies in this regard, in particular after the unification of the Republic of Yemen, which is one of the least developed countries, and with a view to enabling the Republic of Yemen to shoulder the burdens placed upon it as a result of the country's unification and recent events and to implement its development plans and programmes,

1. Urges the international community to continue to respond to United Nations resolutions concerning assistance to the Republic of Yemen in order to enable it to formulate and implement short- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes and shoulder the burdens placed upon it by recent events, which have prevented the Republic of Yemen from continuing to formulate and implement its economic and social plans;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his endeavours and requests him to continue to coordinate the activities of United Nations organizations with a view to assisting the Republic of Yemen in the mobilization of its resources, the implementation of its reconstruction and development programmes and the reintegration of its socio-economic institutions and structures, and to report thereon to the Council at its regular session of 1992.

27. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Emergency and relief operations

The Economic and Social Council takes note of (a) the oral report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan, including Operation Lifeline Sudan, and (b) the oral report of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia.

Notes

1/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

2/ A/46/217-E/1991/94.